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13 August 1957

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Mr. John T. Campbell, Head
RDC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading Berks, England

Dear John:

Upon receiving your 29 July letter, I teletyped you that we would be glad to have Robinson visit Cyprus to secure up to date information on reception conditions prior to going to Teheran. A Stockholm-type operation in Teheran, in coordination with our Mediterranean Bureau coverage, should prove valuable to both our services. We will, as you suggest, arrange at a suitable time for an assessment of the value to our principal consumers of this additional material.

Your personal views on West Africa are valuable to us and we will treat them strictly as confidential. I have not answered your 18 June letter because we have been awaiting the responses of the potential users of African material here. These are now all in. For the most part they indicate interest, but there is some question whether the demand at this time is sufficient to warrant the expenditure of funds and additional staff. We do foresee a likelihood of a stronger requirement in the future, especially outside North Africa, where general interest is somewhat transitory.

Although an official decision has not yet been made, it now seems unlikely that we will proceed with African monitoring stations at this time. I will convey the official decision to you when it is reached.

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The delays in filing of critical Chinese Communist items from Santa Rosa and Chinman to the RDC concern me, and I have written about them. As she will probably explain, Santa Rosa and Chinman have been faced with a recent deluge of Chinese material on the Anti-Rightists campaign and have accumulated tremendous backlogs of material awaiting fairly full processing.

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and I will be visiting Caversham at the end of our trip, which starts at Santa Rosa in early September. Our itinerary calls for arrival in London on 12 October and departure for Washington on the 18th. I shall be staying in the Caversham area, although will probably stay in London most of the time. We are both looking forward to seeing you and our other good friends in the RDC. I hope that your trip to Teheran is both productive and enjoyable.

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Sincerely,

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bcc: Chief, London Bureau, FBIS

Chief, FBIS

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THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Head Office : Broadcasting House, London, W.1

Caversham Park, Reading, Berks.

TELEPHONE : READING 72742

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES : BROADCASTS, TELEX, LONDON

29th July 1957

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Dear

In my letter to you of 18th June I told you that I was hoping to obtain the necessary funds to conduct an experimental operation in Tehran for some six or eight months, for the purpose of evaluating the material which can be monitored from there. I am now glad to say that the necessary authority has been given, and that I hope shortly to set up a small operation there on the same lines as Stockholm. Accommodation at the moment is causing a slight difficulty, but as soon as the way is clear I will go ahead with the necessary arrangements. My intention is to go there myself with Rubinstein and an Engineer to start the thing off, ultimately leaving one monitor to record and send back the belts to Caversham for transcription.

As we will certainly find a degree of overlap between the transmissions receivable in Tehran and those monitored in Cyprus, I would propose that, if you agree, Rubinstein on his way to Tehran should spend perhaps two days at Kivrenia, in order to make himself completely familiar with the up-to-date reception conditions there in so far as transmissions which might be receivable in Tehran are concerned. If you see no objection in this, I would be glad to have a signal from you on receipt of this letter, as I am hoping - possibly optimistically - to get things started in two or three weeks.

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20th July 1957

As I said in my previous letter, the material monitored from Tehran will be made available to your London Bureau in the usual way, and I shall in due course hope to have from you an assessment of its value by your consumers.

I am afraid I have as yet no further information to give you on the reactions at this end to your African survey, but I would appreciate any information which you have as to the likelihood, or otherwise, of your obtaining authority to carry out any or all of your proposals in this direction. I will, of course, keep you informed of any developments here or proposals which may emerge.

I look forward to seeing you in October, and wonder whether you are visiting us at the beginning or end of your trip, and when you will be leaving Washington. No doubt Mrs. Anderson will be able to let me have this information in due course.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



J. T. Campbell
Head of Monitoring Service

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Washington 25, D.C.
U.S.A.

JTC/JB

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Head Office: Broadcasting House, London, W.1

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18th June 1957

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Dear ,

Thank you for your letter of 20th May which crossed mine to you of 29th May, in which I told you that I hoped to let you have comments in due course on the report of your recent African survey. I am not yet in a position to give you any official comment, but you have asked me for my own personal view and I will willingly give it to you, on the understanding that I cannot commit either the BBC or our official users here to anything at this stage.

There is no doubt in my mind that coverage of Africa is a task which has importance at the moment and certainly will have greater importance as time goes on. From the point of view of value of material, I would place North Africa and East Africa as of greater importance than West Africa. The latter, I think, will always be inclined to have limited interest as compared with the other two. As between North Africa and East Africa, my feeling is that short term monitoring of North Africa is going to be very valuable, but I am inclined to think that long term monitoring in East Africa will become even more important, and I think undoubtedly this is true from the British point of view. If the BBC were to join with you in this overall monitoring effort, my own feeling would be that I would like to participate in the operation, and perhaps assume responsibility for the East African coverage. If we were able to set up a monitoring station say in Nairobi, it would seem to have comparable advantages as a site to Asmara, and in addition it would be able to serve the Commonwealth territories in that area which are at the moment doing a certain amount of local monitoring.

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This is in addition, of course, to any monitoring in the East African area and would strengthen our joint coverage of the Near and Middle East.

From this, I think it will be clear that my own personal opinion is very strongly for our taking on this task, and I am trying to interest our people in it at the present time. Whether or not this will become a practical possibility is, of course, another matter as funds for increased monitoring are not at all easy to acquire. I will let you know, as soon as I am in a position to do so, what the official reaction here is, but I would like you to know my own views about it and the way I am trying to influence matters at this end. You will, I know, appreciate that this is entirely a personal view and expressed to you in confidence and cannot in any way commit, as I said before, either the BBC or our Government.

I am very sorry I have not sent you before a copy of Rubinstein's survey in Ankara and Tehran. I have been waiting deliberately until I could give you further information about likely developments in that area. I enclose a copy of this report, from which you will see that we feel there are distinct possibilities about Tehran, and what I want to do is to conduct an experiment, starting as soon as the necessary funds can be made available and continuing for six or eight months so that an evaluation of STAT the material monitorable from Tehran can be made. I have got the support of [] and the Foreign Office for this and am at the present moment waiting the result of a request to the Treasury for the necessary funds to be made available. I am not unhopeful that this may be forthcoming, but, of course, one cannot be certain until formal Treasury approval has been given. I will let you know as soon as things have reached this stage and what plans emerge thereafter. My intention, assuming funds are forthcoming, is to conduct an operation on the same lines as Stockholm, i.e. record material in Tehran and transcribe the belts in Caversham.

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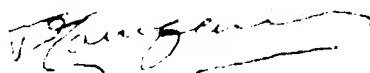
18th June 1957

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This, as you will appreciate, is the most economical way of undertaking such an operation, and will enable us I hope to assess its value and see whether it is worth while continuing on a permanent basis. The material will, of course, be made available to your Bureau here in the same way as our other Regional monitoring, and if it comes off I will look forward to having your evaluation also in due course.

I am much looking forward to your visit in the autumn because we will have many things to discuss together, and by that time I would have hoped that we may have started the Tehran operation and some results may have come in.

Yours sincerely,



J. T. Campbell
Head of Monitoring Service

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